

Delivering Information for Analytical Services: Biological Indicators Web Site

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) Web site on Biological Indicators for Watershed Health has served as a portal for U.S. EPA and state bioassessment programs and information on the development and use of biological indicators. Collaboration with the Office of Water's Biocriteria Web site has made this site the primary pathway for disseminating information within the U.S. EPA, to state and tribal partners, and to the public. The bioindicators Web site provides information and direct access to bioassessment and biocriteria programs in each U.S. EPA region and state, as well as tribes and U.S. territories. Original "modules" of the Web site were a treatment on the subject of biological indicators, a statistical primer for bioassessment, and an introduction to aquatic biodiversity. The Web site has grown over the past year due to demand for access to information in several areas. These new areas include other aspects of the water resource such as vernal and seasonal pools, coral reef indicators, and access to non-proprietary photographs of fish, benthic macroinvertebrates, and soon-to-appear corals. These photographs are used in student projects and are made available to other agencies. The Web site will be redesigned for clarity and greater access to updated information on state, tribal, and territorial programs.